

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 5 JANUARY 2003

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 Central Africa Time (CAT) in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English.

This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at www.sarl.org.za and on packet bulletin boards.

SARL NEWS invites clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to amateurs to sarlnews@hotmail.com not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. It would be appreciated if you could do it in both Afrikaans and English.

In the news today:

RENEWAL NOTICES FOR 2003 RADIO LICENCES ARE IN THE POST

CONTEST SEASON OPENS

SUMMITS ON THE AIR

SARL PRESIDENT'S NET

SPECIAL EVENT, TO MARK MARCONI 1903 TRANSMISSION CENTENNIAL

Stay tuned for more details on these and other news items.

You are tuned to ZS6SRL. Visit the SARL Website or call the SARL office which is open on weekdays from nine to thirteen hours (09:00 to 13:00) at 0(zero)11 675 2393 for details on how to join, book sales and all related amateur radio activities.

The news follows in detail:

RENEWAL NOTICES FOR 2003 RADIO LICENCES ARE IN THE POST.

If you have not already received your notice for renewal of your radio licence you can expect to receive it shortly as a number of amateurs have already received theirs from ICASA. The good news is that the fees have not been increased but still have to be paid by 31 January as usual.

CONTESTING SEASON OPENS

Need an excuse to get out of your gardening chores? Well there is some contesting you can get involved in during this month. First there is the annual Hunting Lions on the Air, which will run over the weekend of 11 and 12 January. The rules for this contest are available on the SARL website at www.sarl.org.za/public/contests/lionita.asp. Contact your local Lions club and set up the station to take part.

On Saturday 18 January the first SARL Kids Day will take place. The aim of the Kid's Day is intended to encourage young people (licensed or not) to enjoy Amateur Radio. It can give young people hands-on, on-the-air experience so they might develop an interest in pursuing a license in the future. It is intended to give hams a chance to share their stations with children. The activity starts at 09:00 and ends at 11:00 CAT with activity on 14,125 to 14,150 MHz 7,040 to 7,065 MHz and 2-meter repeater frequencies. Call "CQ Kid's Day". The exchange is the name, age, location and favourite colour of the child. Participants are encouraged to work the same station again if an operator has changed. Either set up a station at a local school or a local shopping mall or from your home and get the young people to enjoy amateur radio.

Starting at 18:00 CAT on Friday 24 and ending at 18:00 on Sunday 26 January 2003 you can participate in the Port Elizabeth ARS's VHF/UHF Contest. The rules for this first VHF/UHF contest of the year can be found on the SARL website at www.sarl.org.za/public/contests or by contacting the Port Elizabeth ARS.

SPECIAL EVENT, TO MARK THE MARCONI 1903 TRANSMISSION CENTENNIAL

Special event station KM1CC will be on the air January 11-19 to mark the 100th anniversary of Guglielmo Marconi's inaugural wireless transmission between the US and Great Britain on January 18, 1903 (January 19 UTC). On that date, from the sandy Cape Cod cliffs overlooking the Atlantic, Marconi, using a powerful (35 kW) rotary spark transmitter coupled to a massive antenna system, transmitted a 54-word greeting from President Theodore Roosevelt to England's King Edward VII. The monarch promptly acknowledged receipt of the message via landline and cable, literally igniting the spark of global communication.

SUMMITS ON THE AIR LAUNCHED IN SOUTH AFRICA

Summits on the Air is an international awards programme that issues certificates to amateurs who activate or contact a number of mountain summits. Over the past few months a group of South African amateurs have been drawing up a SOTA Reference Manual for South Africa which includes a list of mountain summits that will count towards the awards. The manual has been approved by the international management committee and South Africa officially joined Summits on the Air on 1 January this year.

To celebrate, a number of South African amateurs activated summits on 1 January. Rudi, ZS6DX, operated from Magalliesberg and Andrew, ZS1AN operated from Maclear's Beacon on Table Mountain.

The following frequencies are used for these activities:

CW: 7024, 14007, 21007 and 28007 kHz; SSB: 7066, 14160, 21160 and 28440 kHz; FM: 145.500 MHz Simplex.

For further information about SOTA in South Africa, see our web site at

www.qsl.net/sotasa or email us at sotasa@qsl.net. You can also phone Andrew ZS1AN at (021) 6852841 or (083) 4484678.

WEIRD AND WONDERFUL

The following was found in QNEWS for this week.

FM DX and sharks in Brisbane?

Marcus Fitz writing to Peter Parker reckons he has found a new yet crude way of knowing when VHF DX is biting!

Marcus says around Brisbane if there are sharks chasing schools of fish close to shore, FM DX'ing conditions will be pretty good. Is this because the fish are close to the shore due to warmer water?

Or is it that the signals are reflected off the shark nets strung for safety down the VK4 coastline?

Whatever, when the sharks are in, go DX fishing!

Has anyone on the ZS coast noticed something similar?

SARL PRESIDENT'S NET

Remember to join the Presidents Net which will be on the air every LAST Sunday of the Month on 7082kHz as from this month, the first of which will take place on the 26th.

This is then the last news item in this week's bulletin which was compiled by Martin, ZS6ABU and read byfrom as a service to radio amateurs, short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts.

The SARL invites you to listen to Amateur Radio Mirror International on 21560, 9750, and 7082 kHz and 145,625 MHz in East London, 145,650 in Durban and 145,750 MHz in the Pretoria area. A repeat broadcast can be heard on Mondays at 20:00 CAT on 3215 kHz.

ARMI is sponsored by Telkom and Sentech.

You have been listening to ZS6SRL, thank you for joining us. Also a big word of thanks to those persons supplying news for these bulletins and the amateurs who relay the bulletins so regularly.

Goodbye everyone.

/EX